



CALIFORNIA COMMUNITY COLLEGES

CHANCELLOR'S OFFICE

MEDIA STATEMENT

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California Community Colleges Chancellor Jack Scott Reacts to Gov. Schwarzenegger Signing Historic Community College Transfer Bill

SACRAMENTO, Calif. – California Community Colleges Chancellor Jack Scott today issued the following statement in response to Gov. Schwarzenegger signing the community college transfer bill:

“SB 1440 puts the needs of California’s community college students first. I want to applaud Gov. Schwarzenegger for signing this bill and Sen. Alex Padilla for authoring it. This law is going to make a real difference for students. The current process is too complicated. It’s easy for students to get frustrated, confused and waste time when the requirements change. Chancellor Reed and I have talked about this initiative for years – as far back as when I was in the legislature. Today is a proud moment for both of us.”

Background:

Gov. Schwarzenegger today signed the historic Student Transfer Achievement Reform Act, [Senate Bill 1440](#). The initiative will simplify the transfer process between the California Community Colleges and California State University systems, increasing efficiency and generating approximately \$160 million annually in cost savings. The savings will be used to provide access to roughly 40,000 additional community college students and nearly 14,000 California State University students each year.

The bill, authored by [Sen. Alex Padilla](#) (D-Pacoima), was co-sponsored by the California Community Colleges and strongly supported by its chancellor, [Jack Scott](#), and California State University Chancellor [Charles Reed](#).

When courses do not transfer from a community college to a four-year institution, students lose valuable time and money while taxpayers waste a significant amount of resources. SB 1440, for the first time in California history, promises community college students who complete an associate degree designated for transfer a clear and guaranteed pathway for admission to the California State University system at junior status.

According to a report from the California Legislative Analyst’s Office, community college students transferring to a California State University graduated with an average of 162 units when the minimum requirement is 120 units. A recent study by the California Community Colleges Chancellor’s Office finds roughly 50,000 community college students transfer annually to the California State University system. They do so with an average of 80 semester units when only 60 semester units are required. Similarly, when these students arrive at the California State University, they take excess units to make up for courses that did not transfer from their community college.

Preparing students to transfer to a four-year university is a core mission of the California Community Colleges. The Public Policy Institute of California (PPIC) projects the state will face a shortage of a million bachelor’s degree holders for the workforce by 2025. PPIC also states that, in conjunction with gradually increasing college attendance rates and California State University graduation rates, increasing transfer rates by 20 percent in the next 15 years will close that one million degree gap dramatically.

Data from the California State University demonstrates that community college transfer students perform as well as, or better than, native four-year university students. These transfer students also more closely mirror California’s demographics and increase diversity at four year institutions.

The California Community Colleges is the largest system of higher education in the nation composed of 72 districts and 112 colleges serving 2.76 million students per year. Community colleges supply workforce training and basic skills education and prepare students for transfer to four-year institutions. The Chancellor’s Office provides leadership, advocacy and support under the direction of the Board of Governors of the California Community Colleges.

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